

### **Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims as follows:

#### **Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Currently amended): A biological process for producing carotenoids including astaxanthin, the process comprising cultivating a microorganism which is ~~capable of producing carotenoids which include astaxanthin and belonging to the genus~~ *Xanthophyllomyces dendrorhous* (*Phaffia rhodozyma*) ATCC96594, redeposited under accession No. ATCC 74438, in the presence of ~~an inhibitor of biosynthesis of sterols from farnesyl pyrophosphate~~ [3-(3-allyl-biphenyl-4-yloxy)-propyl]-isopropyl-amine, a substrate for producing carotenoids which include astaxanthin, in an aqueous nutrient medium under aerobic conditions wherein the concentration of the inhibitor in the aqueous medium is ~~within a range that gives less than a 50 % reduction of cell growth as compared to cell growth in the absence of the inhibitor under carotenoids producing conditions and cell growth is determined by measuring the optical density of a sample of the cultured medium at 660 nm~~ from 0.5 µg/ml to 5.0 µg/ml, and isolating the resulting carotenoids which include astaxanthin, from the cells of said microorganism or from the cultured medium, ~~wherein the astaxanthin content of the isolated carotenoids is greater than that which results from cultivating in the absence of an inhibitor of biosynthesis of sterols from farnesyl pyrophosphate.~~

3 - 19. (Cancelled).

20. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 2, wherein the cultivation is carried out at a pH in the range from 4 to 8 and at a temperature in the range from 15 to 26 °C, for 24 to 500 hours.

21. (Previously presented): The process according to claim 20, wherein the cultivation is carried out at a pH in the range from 5 to 7 and at a temperature in the range from 18 to 22 °C, for 48 to 350 hours.

22-24. (Cancelled).